



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/817,963 | 03/27/2001 | Klaus Lowack | GR 00 P 1583 | 9891 |

7590 03/08/2002

LERNER AND GREENBERG, P.A.
PATENT ATTORNEYS AND ATTORNEYS AT LAW
Post office Box 2480
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480

EXAMINER

TALBOT, BRIAN K

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
| 1762 | 11 |

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 09/817,963 | LOWACK ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Brian K Talbot | 1762 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 4-7 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 4-7 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

1. The preamendment filed 6/22/01 has been considered and entered. Claims 1-3 have been canceled. Claims 4-7 have been added and are the only remaining claims in the application.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

On pg. 3, line 21 and pg. 5, line 14, the term "50 Fm" appears to be a typographical error which should be recited as "50 microns".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arbach et al. (5,021,129) in combination with Angelopoulos et al. (6,136,513) further in combination with Bickford et al. (5,800,858).

Arbach et al. (5,021,129) teaches applying an electroactive layer (32) and then another electroactive layer (34). Patterning of the second layer (34) is performed to form areas (36). These areas (36) are then activated by seeding and then metallized to form conductive traces.

Angelopoulos et al. (6,136,513) teaches applying a photoresist layer to a substrate, treating the photoresist layer prior to applying a seed layer and another photoresist layer. The second photoresist layer is imaged and conductive traces are formed by metallization.

Therefore, it would have been within the skill of one practicing in the art to have modified Arbach et al. (5,021,129) process by implementing a "pretreatment step" as evidenced by Angelopoulos et al. (6,136,513) because of the advantages associated with such a step, i.e. reducing the amount of seeding utilized.

In addition, it would have also been within the skill of one practicing in the art to have modified Angelopoulos et al. (6,136,513) process by forming and developing the second photoresist prior to applying the seed layer as evidenced by Arbach et al. (5,021,129) because of the expectation of achieving similar results as well as the fact that the amount of seed material utilized could be reduced due to the smaller area for which the seed is applied, i.e. no waste of seed material.

Arbach et al. (5,021,129) in combination with Angelopoulos et al. (6,136,513) fail to teach the thickness of the dielectric films being not greater than 50 microns (about 2.1 mils).

Bickford et al. (5,800,858) teaches a similar process whereby the thickness of the polymer films are from 0.3 to 5 mils in thickness which are imaged, developed and seeded prior to metallization. More than one layer of the polymer can be utilized with the layers being of the same polymeric material.

Therefore, one skilled in the art would have had a reasonable expectation of achieving similar success by modifying Arbach et al. (5,021,129) in combination with Angelopoulos et al. (6,136,513) process by utilizing the same polymeric material for the layers having a similar thickness as evidenced by Bickford et al. (5,800,858).

With respect to claims 6 and 7, the claims recite “imaging” the first layer as well as the second layer. It is the Examiner’s position that this has been shown to be conventional in the art and one skilled in the art would have had a reasonable expectation of achieving similar success and benefits associated with the steps.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian K Talbot whose telephone number is (703) 305-3775. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday 6AM-4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Shrive P Beck can be reached on (703) 308-2333. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-6078 for regular communications and (703) 872-9765 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 1762

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3775.



Brian K. Talbot
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1762

BKT
March 6, 2002